

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 NEA-09 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8145

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS LABOR AND TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, UK (NI), CI, ILO

SUBJECT: TUC MEETING WITH THE AFL-CIO COUNCIL

REF: (A) LOND 414; (B) LONDON 16152

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - ACCORDING TO JACK JONES, A LEADER OF
THE TUC DELEGATION TO THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING IN MIAMI, THE DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO COMPARE
NOTES WITH THE AFL-CIO ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH NOW
FACES A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. FOR JONES,
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THIS ISSUE RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS OF OVER-
RIDING CONCERN, BUT WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE TUC WILL

WANT TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES AS CHILE, THE AIFLD, THE PLO RECOGNITION ISSUE, NORTHERN IRELAND AND OTHER MATTERS. THE TUC IS ALSO PREPARED -- DEFENSIVELY -- TO RESPOND TO AFL-CIO'S CONTINUOUS CONCERN ABOUT TUC'S "EAST-WEST" POLICIES. (THE TUC DELEGATION DEPARTS LONDON FEBRUARY 14 AND MIAMI FEBRUARY 18). END SUMMARY

2. DURING RECENT MEETING WITH CHARGE, JONES INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN A TUC-AFL-CIO DISCUSSION ON THE ECONOMY. ONE CAN ASSUME THAT THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE MUCH COMMON GROUND IN THEIR APPROACH TO CERTAIN IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, SUCH AS INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE LIKELY TO DIFFER ON THE EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. AS IN THE US, BRITISH TRADE UNIONS ARE INSISTING THAT LIMITING UNEMPLOYMENT IS THE MAJOR IMMEDIATE TASK EVEN IF IT INVOLVES CERTAIN REFLATIONARY ACTIVITY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

3. JACK JONES SAYS HE FAVORS SOME SELECTIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT IN THE UK, BUT HE TOLD THE CHARGE THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR BRITAIN TO HONOR ITS GATT COMMITMENTS. ACCORDING TO THE SUNDAY OBSERVER (FEBRUARY 9, 1975), "THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALISTS SUCH AS SIR RAYMOND BROOKES, PRESIDENT OF GUEST, KEEN AND NETTLEFOLDS, TO IMPOSE IMPORT CONTROLS OR HIGHER TARIFFS ON JAPANESE GOODS." (THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT "THE GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO DO THIS, PARTLY BECAUSE SUCH ACTION WOULD BE A FLAGRANT BREACH OF GATT RULES BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WOULD PREFER TO SEE SUCH DEALS AS THAT PROPOSED BETWEEN BRITISH LEYLAND AND TOYOTA FOR MARKETING LUXURY CARS...")

4. LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES - THE TUC STILL WISHES TO DISCUSS CHILE, AND THE AIFLD, BUT SINCE WE DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH HARGREAVES (REF A) WE UNDERSTAND FROM A GENERALLY RELIABLE TUC SOURCE THAT THE TUC WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WISH TO
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UNDULY ANTAGONIZE THE AFL-CIO BY APPEARING TO CRITICIZE IT EITHER IN TERMS OF ITS POSITION ON CHILE DURING THE ALLENDE REGIME OR BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE AIFLD, IN WHICH THE AFL-CIO PLAYS A LEADING ROLE. THE TUC'S CURRENT EMPHASIS, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL BE INSTEAD ON POSITIVE WAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN WHICH THE AFL-CIO, THE TUC AND OTHER TRADE UNION CENTERS CAN HELP TO INFLUENCE THE GOC, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF SECURING RELEASE FOR IMPRISONED TRADE UNIONISTS.

5. THE ILO, PARTICULARLY THE PLO RECOGNITION QUESTION -
THE TUC SHARES THE BASIC OPPOSITION TO PLO RECOGNITION
AND, WE ARE INFORMED, THE UK WORKER DELEGATE IS NOW
"MANDATED" TO OPPOSE GRANTING PLO OBSERVER STATUS. HOW-
EVER, IN CONTRAST TO THE AFL-CIO POSITION, ACCORDING TO
OUR SOURCE, THE TUC IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN ADDRESS AT
THE JUNE CONFERENCE BY A PLO REPRESENTATIVE. AS HE
DESCRIBED IT, THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE COULD "TALK TO THE
CONFERENCE FOR FIVE MINUTES AND THEN BE OFF." (THE TUC

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IS ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS ILO BUDGET PROBLEMS, BUT THIS IS VERY LOW DOWN ON THE AGENDA.)

6. EAST-WEST ISSUES - THE TUC IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ITS POSITION ON EAST-WEST QUESTIONS, BUT IS RELUCTANT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, TO INITIATE SUCH A DISCUSSION. IT IS PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE AFL-CIO'S VERY STRONG OPPOSITION TO ITS "EAST-WEST" POLICY, TO ITS POSITION ON ADMITTANCE OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ORGANIZATIONS INTO THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AND TO ITS LEADERSHIP IN ORGANIZING AND PROMULGATING THE "EAST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEST'. ALL-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE. MOREOVER, SOME TUC LEADERS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE WORKERS CONFERENCE IN LONDON WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A SOVIET POLITICAL-PROPAGANDA VICTORY (REF B). THE TUC LEADERSHIP, WE BELIEVE, IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE CHARGE THAT WHILE IT IS ALERT TO VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE, SOUTH AFRICA, AND IN OTHER NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, IT REMAINS RATHER MUTE IN THE FACE OF SUCH VIOLATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE. (AN FCO OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE FCO MAY BE COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE TUC MAY BE GOING A "BIT TOO FAR" IN ITS "EAST-WEST" POLICIES, BUT A RELIABLE TUC SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THUS FAR THE FCO HAS NOT TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE TUC'S ACTIVITY IN THIS RESPECT.)

7. OECD TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TUAC) - WHEN WE SPOKE TO HARGREAVES RECENTLY (REF A), HE INDICATED THAT THE OECD-TUAC MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. OUR SOURCE, HOWEVER, INFORMS US THAT THE TUC DELEGATION WILL NOT INITIATE ANY DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE, BUT IF IT WERE TO COME UP, THE TUC WILL EMPHASIZE THAT AFL-CIO PARTICIPATION WOULD BE VERY WELCOME AND THAT THE TUC WOULD BE GLAD TO COOPERATE WITH THE AFL-CIO WITHIN THE COMMITTEE.

8. NORTHERN IRELAND - THE TUC, ANTICIPATING A STRONG INTEREST BY SOME AFL-CIO LEADERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE A RUN-DOWN OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING SOME OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UK GOVERNMENT.

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